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through his middle.

He was discovered in Aragon Close, Southend, and the RSPCA was called

had actually started to heal and he had been trapped for around two weeks, but his mother had been

Anyone with information is asked to call the RSPCA in confidence on 0300 123 4999.



Chamber 11 recognition was given for categories including emergency services, school, individual and most innovative fundraisers.

Council is to press on with eviction process

Uni festival is a great success



■ Cllr Sukhdev Singh Marway, civic ambassador Akhbar Chowdhury and members of the Nostalgia Steel band

HUNDREDS of students, local residents and other visitors gathered at the University of East London Docklands campus last week to enjoy live music, dance, theatre and fashion at Mayfest 09 cultural festival.

It featured a diverse programme including art and photography exhibitions, music, dance, and poetry. Performances on the main stage included the Nostalgia Steel band, music from the Mehfil, Serafina Dance Group, singer Shonanis, Moe Foe, and Barking Bateria, UEL's samba band.

Ionesco's play The Chairs, reinterpreted by Performing Arts students, was a highlight of the drama programme.

There was also an open mic poetry

Mark O'Thomas, Director of UEL's Institute for Performing Arts Development, said: "I'm really delighted that so many people came along to enjoy the atmosphere and the activities. Once again Mayfest has highlighted the impressive performances from the students and the amazing creative talent we have at UEL in theatre, visual arts, music and community arts practice."

UEL student Shonanis performed at the event, she is currently doing live shows around London. Shonanis said: "I think Mayfest is really diverse and very eclectic and there's so much going on and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Aaron Brace, 18, a psychology student, also

BASILDON Council leader Malcolm Buckley has expressed the authority's determination to press ahead with plans to remove illegal traveller sites at Dale Farm and Wickford.

However, he has expressed the authority's delight that they have won approval from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) for their actions and says that it will "work with all parties to ensure an orderly withdrawal from the sites and the needs of all communities are addressed."

He was speaking after a meeting convened and chaired by the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Director of English Regions and in the wake of adverse literature distributed by some dissatisfied residents on the sites.

The meeting was for the various interested groups and organisations to discuss ways to improve relations. Cllr Buckley said: "We are very pleased the meeting went so well, and it certainly laid the foundation for future positive discussions."

"While I made it very clear that we are at the end of the planning process and the sites at Dale Farm and Hovefields Drive must be cleared, we need to work with all parties to ensure an orderly withdrawal from the

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**- Council leader
Malcolm Buckley**

sites and the needs of all communities are addressed.

"Certainly, EHRC has expressed its satisfaction with the positive and constructive nature of the meeting.

"Those of us who attended from Basildon Council also considered it a very useful and positive meeting, and my feeling is that the other participants found it positive as well.

"We are all disappointed that a representative of the organisation called Dale Farm Housing Association chose to circulate a negative statement following this meeting.

"This was certainly not reflective of what happened at the meeting, nor of the notes provided by EHRC which were agreed by the people attending the meeting."